

What is claimed is:

1. A modem, comprising:
first interface circuitry adapted to provide data transfer between a host device and a network; and
5 second interface circuitry adapted to provide data transfer between a memory device and at least one of said host device and said network.

2. The modem of claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a digital cable network and a digital subscriber line (DSL) network.
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3. The modem of claim 1, wherein said second interface circuitry is adapted to determine a type of memory device coupled thereto.

4. The modem of claim 1, wherein:
15 in response to a default data transfer condition, data is transferred between said memory device and at least one of said host device and a computer communicating with said network.

5. The modem of claim 1, wherein said memory device is associated
20 with an audio player and, in response to a default data transfer condition, audio data is transferred to said memory device from at least one of said host device and a computer communicating with said network.

6. The modem of claim 1, wherein said memory device is associated
25 with an imaging device and, in response to a default data transfer condition, image data is transferred from said memory device to at least one of said host device and a computer communicating with said network.

7. The modem of claim 1, wherein said second interface circuitry is
30 adapted to receive a smart card with integrated memory.

8. The modem of claim 1, wherein said second interface is adapted
to receive a compact FLASH memory card.

9. The modem of claim 1, wherein a data bus of a first type is used to communicate data between said memory device and said modem, and a data bus of a second type is used to communicate data between said host device and said modem.

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10. The modem of claim 1, wherein said memory device has stored therein a program, said second interface circuitry being adapted to responsively transfer said program to said modem for execution.

10 11. The modem of claim 10, wherein said program stored in said memory device is compressed, said modem decompressing said program prior to executing said program.

12. The modem of claim 1, wherein:

15 said modem, operating as a universal serial bus (USB) hub, transfers data between said memory device and said host device via a USB communications path.

13. The modem of claim 1, wherein:

20 said modem, enables said memory device to be accessed by said host device via at least one of an Ethernet communications link and a universal serial bus (USB) communications link.

14. Apparatus comprising:

25 a modem for transferring data between a host computing device and a network, said modem having associated with it a first data bus operatively coupled to a flash memory having stored therein at least an initial operating program; and

30 an interface circuit, operatively coupled to said first data bus and a physical interface device, said physical interface device adapted to receive a memory device, said interface circuit adapted to provide data transfer between said memory device and said modem using said first data bus, said modem adapted to transfer data between said memory device and at least one of said host device and said network.

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15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said network comprises one of a digital cable network and a digital subscriber line (DSL) network.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said second interface circuitry 5 is adapted to determine the type of memory device coupled thereto.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

in response to a default data transfer condition, data is transferred between said memory device and at least one of said host device and a 10 computer communicating with said network.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said second interface circuitry is adapted to determine a type of memory device coupled thereto.

15 19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said memory device has stored therein a program, said second interface circuitry being adapted to responsively transfer said program to said modem for execution.

20 20. A method, comprising:

detecting the insertion of a memory device into an interface operatively coupled to a modem, said modem including first interface circuitry adapted to provide data transfer between a host device and a network, said modem including second interface circuitry adapted to provide data transfer between said memory device and at least one of said host device and said network; and
25 in response to a default data transfer condition, transferring data between said detected memory device and at least one of said host device and said network.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said data transfer comprises the 30 transfer of audio data to said detected memory device from at least one of said host device and a computer communicating with said network.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said data transfer comprises the transfer of image data from said detected memory device to at least one of said host device and a computer communicating with said network.

5 23. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
determining the type of memory device inserted into said interface
device.